

9-22-1987

H.R. 3100 / Foreign Affairs Africa Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment 11/18/1987

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NOV 18 1987

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

^D

Member's Immediate Attention!

The Honorable ^F1^
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear ^F2^:

We are writing in strong support of the proposed Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment to the Foreign Aid Authorization Bill (H.R. 3100). This amendment would restore the funds that had been eliminated from the aid package to Sub-Saharan Africa, by earmarking \$85 million in Economic Support Funds (ESF) for FY 1988 and 1989.

This is a matter of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus because Sub-Saharan Africa, the world's poorest region, has experienced substantial absolute and proportional cuts in U.S. economic aid in the last few years. Between FY 1984 and FY 1987, allocations to Africa plummeted from \$667 million to \$486 million, a decline of \$181 million, but allocations -- excluding military assistance -- for

- * Asia rose from \$661 million to \$843 million; and
- * the Near East, including Israel and Egypt, rose from \$1.99 billion to \$2.32 billion.

In the last year alone, Sub-Saharan Africa -- unlike other regions of the world -- has experienced a reduction in economic aid of \$87 million. In short, Africa's share of our worldwide economic aid dropped from nearly 14 percent in FY 1984 to less than 10 percent in FY 1987.

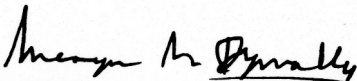
Despite this obvious disparity in treatment, in August the Foreign Affairs Committee voted out a substitute foreign aid bill that decreased proposed FY 1988 funding for Africa by nearly 15 percent, from \$585 million to \$500 million.

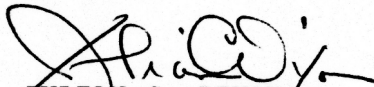
Thus, the Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment would simply restore funding that had been approved originally by the Africa Subcommittee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. It would also bring the bill closer in line with the State Department's request for \$600 million in aid to Africa.


But it is most important to note that even when the \$85 million is restored, per capita aid to Sub-Saharan Africa will be only 96 cents -- far less than for any other region of the world.


We support the Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment because it is a modest -- but significant -- step toward attaining fairness in U.S. foreign assistance. We, therefore, strongly urge you to vote in favor of its passage.

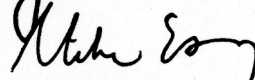
Sincerely,



MERVYN M. DYMALLY

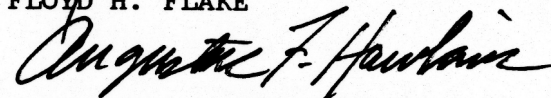

JULIAN C. DIXON

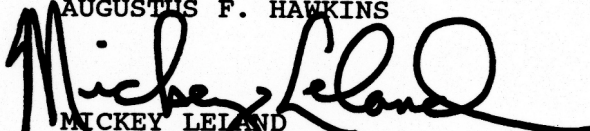

WILLIAM CLAY

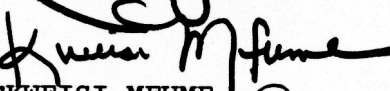

JOHN CONYERS, JR.

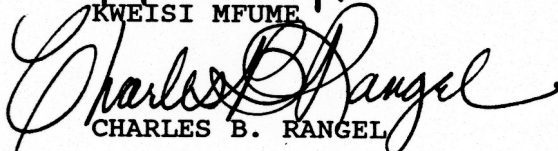

MIKE ESPY

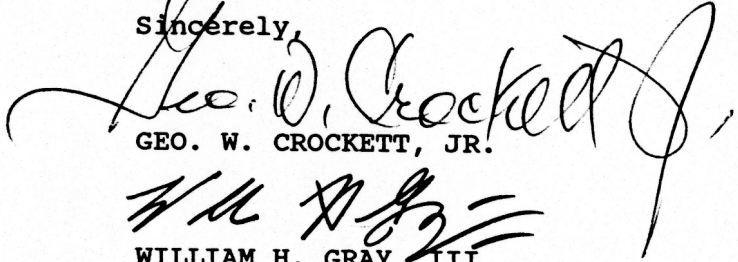

FLOYD H. FLAKE

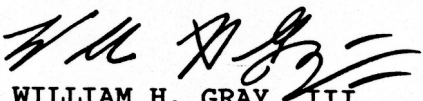

AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS

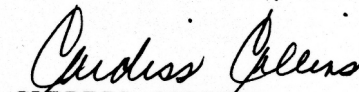

MICKEY LELAND

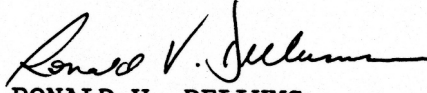

KWEISI MFUME

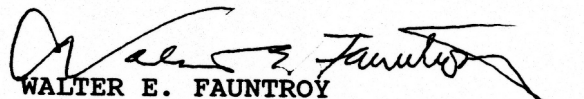

CHARLES B. RANGEL

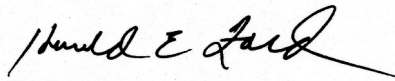

GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR.

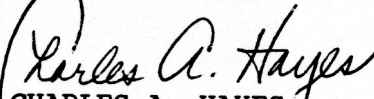

WILLIAM H. GRAY, III

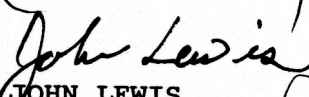

CARDISS COLLINS

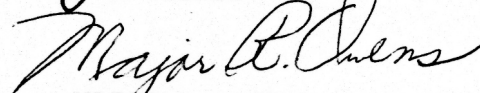

RONALD V. DELLUMS

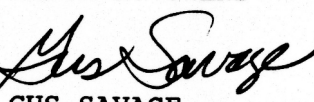

WALTER E. FAUNTROY


HAROLD E. FORD


CHARLES A. HAYES


JOHN LEWIS


MAJOR R. OWENS


GUS SAVAGE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Colleague,

December 3, 1987

During the week of December 7th the House is scheduled to finish consideration of the Foreign Aid Authorization bill for FY 1988 and 1989. As members of Congress dedicated to meeting humanitarian concerns and promoting U.S. economic and strategic interests in Africa, we are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally amendment. This amendment would not add any funds to the bill. It simply earmarks \$85 million in discretionary Economic Support Funds (ESF) for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The substitute foreign aid bill decreased proposed FY 1988 funding for Africa by nearly 15%, from \$585 million to \$500 million. The Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment would simply restore funding that had been approved originally by the Africa Subcommittee.

Alone among all the world's regions, Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced substantial absolute and proportional cuts in economic aid in the last few years. Between Fiscal Year 1984 and Fiscal Year 1987, allocations to Africa fell by \$181 million.

While U.S. aid to Africa has plummeted, Africa continues to suffer from a crisis of astounding severity. Economic growth rates have been lower than those in other developing regions and per capita income is on the decline. Nowhere else in the world do institutions and skills lag so far behind problems. No other continent suffers such acute famine and environmental loss.

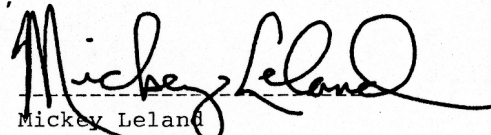
In Asia and Latin America, food production is increasing and population growth rates are decreasing. In Africa exactly the reverse is true: food production is declining on a per capita basis while population growth rates are soaring. By 1985, 150 million Africans depended partially or totally on imported food. Even with worldwide food aid, 60 percent of the people who live in Africa consume fewer calories each day than are thought to be necessary for normal life.

Furthermore, declining U.S. aid to Africa is out of step with our national interests on the continent. Africa produces more than 25% of 15 minerals essential to the U.S. and supplies us with nearly 40% of our imported oil. The strategic importance of Africa, which hosts a third of the world's nations has been demonstrated by recent crises in Angola, Ethiopia, and Southern Africa.

If the developed nations of the world do not continue to provide substantial economic development aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, the countries of this region will have little hope for progressing towards self-sufficiency. In the long run, the U.S. and other countries of the developed world will pay the price many times over our current level of economic aid.

We urge your support for the Fascell-Wolpe-Dymally Amendment.

Sincerely,


Mickey Leland
Chairman, Select Committee
on Hunger

James H. Scheuer
Member of Congress

Tony Coelho
Majority Whip